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THE U.N. AND ANTI-TERRORISM

ANNCR: THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL CONTINUES ITS DEBATE ON THE ISRAELI RAID ON ENTEBBE AIRPORT IN UGANDA AND THE OVER-ALL ISSUE OF AIR HIJACKINGS. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SOME ASPECTS OF THAT DEBATE.

VOICE: PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS FOR MANY CENTURIES HAS BEEN UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED-AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PROVIDES THE SEVEREST PENALTIES FOR ITS PERPETRATORS. SIMILARLY, KIDNAPPING IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE IN MANY COUNTRIES BY DEATH OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT. BUT SO FAR, THE WORLD COMMUNITY HAS MOVED HESITANTLY TOWARD SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST THE MODERN COMBINATION OF BOTH CRIMES--AIR HIJACKINGS. THERE DOES EXIST A BODY OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING AIR PIRACY AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS CALLING FOR STRICT PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST IT. BUT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, AT BEST, HAS BEEN IMPERFECT.

IT IS PRECISELY THIS GAP IN THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH AIR HIJACKINGS THAT THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE TRYING TO CLOSE NOW IN THE UNITED NATIONS. BOTH NATIONS HAVE PRESENTED A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO PUT INTO EFFECT NEW MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL AIR SAFETY.

URGING APPROVAL U.S. ABMASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON SAID: "LET US CONDEMN THE TAKING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AS HOSTAGES. LET US," HE SAID, "DEPLORE THE THREAT TO HOMAN LIFE AT THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS. LET US ALSO REAFFIRM OUR DEDICATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EVERY MEMBER STATE. MOST IMPORTANT," AMBASSADOR SCRANTON

SAID, "LET US TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST TERRORIST HIJACKING-ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD TODAY."

BEHIND AMBASSADOR SCRANTON'S APPEAL IS THE OBVIOUS FACT OF MODERN LIFE THAT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS THE WILL OF THEIR SPONSORS AND SIGNATORIES TO CARRY THEM OUT. AIR TERRORISM, HE IMPLIED, WILL BE WITH US AS LONG AS NATIONS ARE UNWILLING TO CONVINCE POTENTIAL HIJACKERS THAT SUCH CRIMES DO NOT PAY. AND THAT, IN EFFECT, IS WHAT ISRAEL DID IN SENDING ITS COMMANDOS TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES HELD THERE BY THE AIR HIJACKERS--WITH THE APPARENT COOPERATION OF THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT.

AMBASSADOR SCRANTON READILY ADMITTED THAT ISRAEL HAS--AS HE PUT IT--"NECESSARILY" BREACHED UGANDA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. BUT IN SO DOING, HE NOTED, ISRAEL HAD EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF ANY NATION TO PROTECT ITS NATIONALS FROM IMMINENT THREATS OF DEATH OR INJURY. THAT SUCH THREATS EXISTED IS BEYOND DISPUTE. THE HIJACKERS HAD SURROUNDED THEIR HOSTAGES WITH EXPLOSIVES AND, TOGETHER WITH UGANDAN TROOPS, RINGED THE BUILDING HOLDING THEM.

IN SUM, THE ENTEBBE INCIDENT IS A CLASSIC CASE OF WHAT AMBASSADOR SCRANTON CALLED "A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD TODAY." AND IN PRESENTING THE JOINT RESOLUTION, BRITISH AMBASSADOR IVOR RICHARD CALLED THE INCIDENT A CATALYST OFFERING THE COUNCIL AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE ITS PRIMARY AIM--TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. BOTH ARGUMENTS FOR COUNCIL ACTION NOW ARE VALID. FOR THE OBVIOUS DANGER IS THAT UNLESS THE WORLD COMMUNITY OUTLAWS AIR AIR PIRACY AS IT HAS

SEA PIRACY, OTHER NATIONS MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO PROTECT CITIZENS VICTIMIZED BY TERRORISTS WORKING IN COLLUSION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

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